2008 ANNUAL ALBERTA LABOUR MARKET REVIEW

EMPLOYMENT • UNEMPLOYMENT • ECONOMIC REGIONS
MIGRATION • ABORIGINAL PEOPLE • INDUSTRIES
OCCUPATIONS • EDUCATION • DEMOGRAPHICS

Alberta Employment and Immigration

EMPLOYMENT

Employment increased by 53,900 in Alberta

Alberta's employment growth rate, the highest in Canada, was 2.8% in 2008. Employment rose by 53,900, bringing the province's total employment to more than two million. Employment in Canada grew 1.5% between 2007 and 2008.

83.8% reported they held full time employment while 16.2% were in part time employment.

Male employment totaled 1,115,400, a 3.7% increase from 2007, while female employment totaled 897,900, a 1.6% increase from the previous year.

In 2008, Alberta contributed 20.8% to Canada's job growth, second only to Ontario. (Figure 1)

PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT, 2008

FIGURE 1

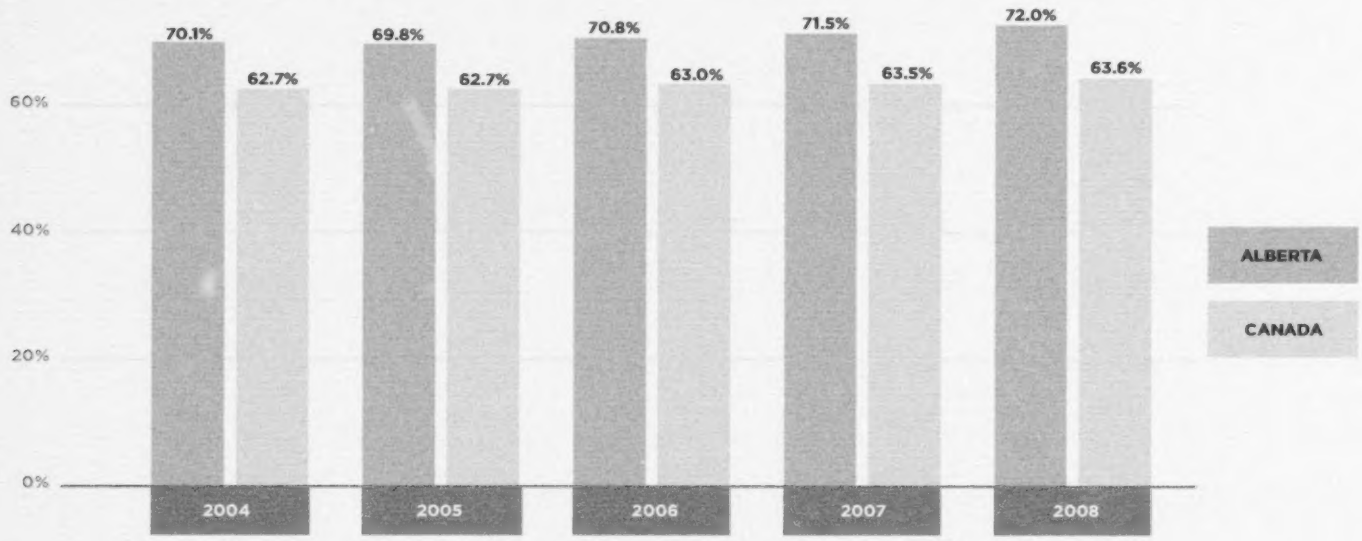
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

PROVINCE	EMPLOYMENT	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE	PER CENT OF NATIONWIDE EMPLOYMENT CHANGE
Alberta	2,013,300	53,900	20.8%
British Columbia	2,314,300	48,000	18.5%
Manitoba	606,700	10,200	3.9%
Saskatchewan	512,700	10,900	4.2%
New Brunswick	366,200	3,400	1.3%
Newfoundland and Labrador	220,300	3,200	1.2%
Prince Edward Island	70,200	900	0.3%
Nova Scotia	453,200	5,600	2.2%
Quebec	3,881,700	30,000	11.6%
Ontario	6,687,300	93,500	36.0%
Canada	17,125,800	259,400	

ALBERTA AND CANADA EMPLOYMENT RATES[1], 2004–2008

FIGURE 2

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



[1]*The employment rate measures the number of people employed out of the working age population (15+ years).*

Alberta had the highest employment rate in Canada

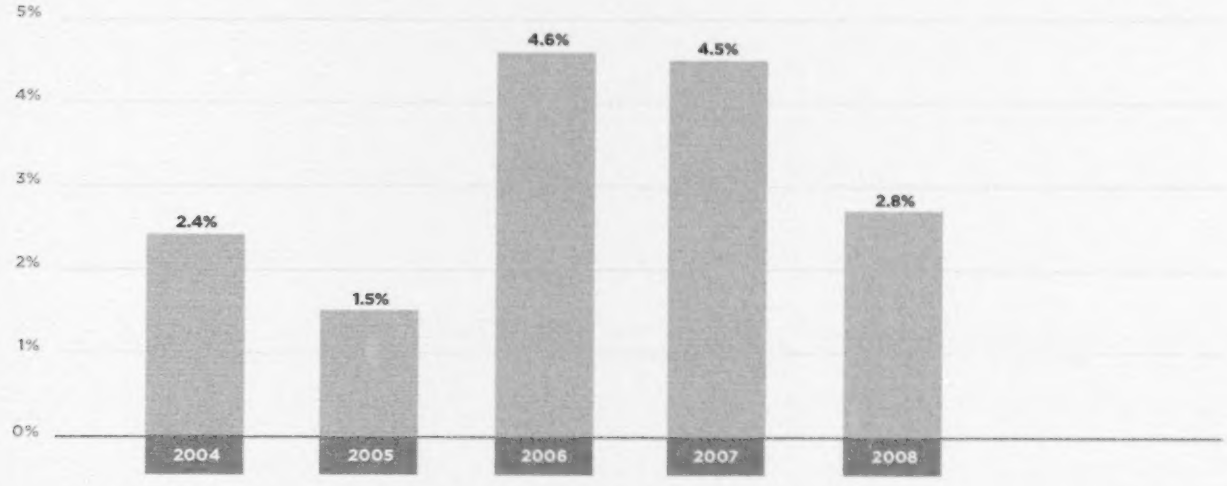
Alberta's employment rate of 72.0% was the highest in the country and a historical high since 1976[2]. Canada's employment rate was 63.6% in 2008. Employment rates for males and females in Alberta, at 78.8% and 65.1% respectively, were also the highest in Canada in 2008.

In 2008, male and female employment was 55.4% and 44.6% of Alberta total employment respectively. The total employment for males in Alberta rose 3.7% from the previous year, the highest increase among provinces for male employment in 2008.

After large job increases in 2006 and 2007, employment growth in Alberta moderated in 2008 to 2.8%, adding 53,900 jobs. (Figure 3)

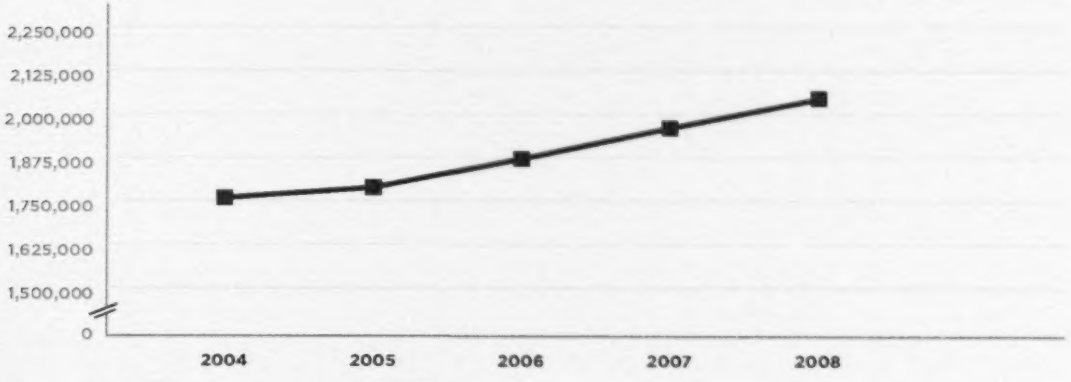
ALBERTA ANNUAL AVERAGE GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT, 2004–2008 FIGURE 3

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



ALBERTA ANNUAL AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT, 2004–2008 FIGURE 4

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



[2]*The year when labour force statistics were first reported across Canada.*

UNEMPLOYMENT

Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada

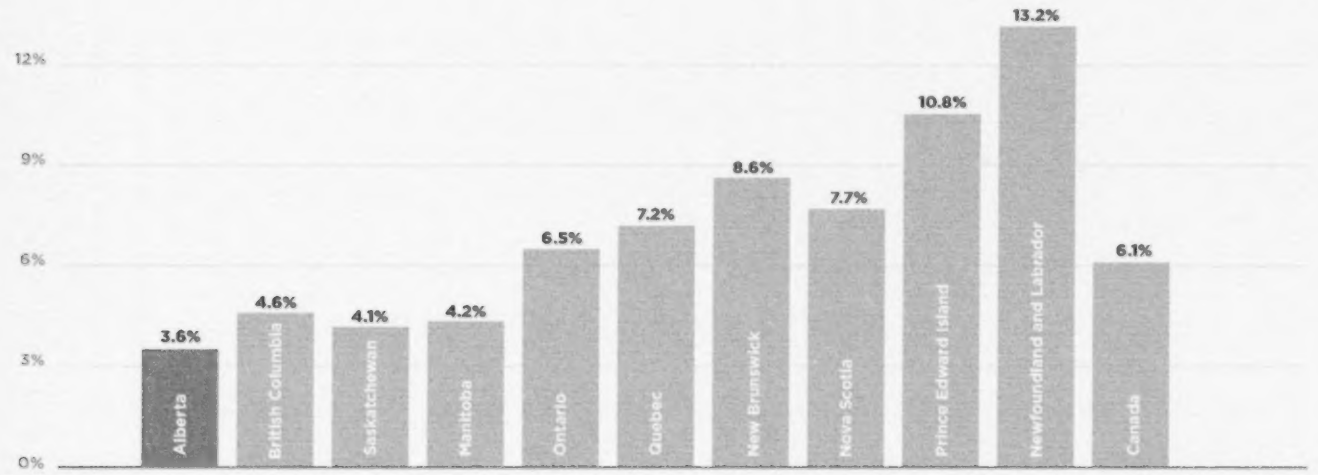
Alberta's unemployment rate of 3.6% was the lowest of all provinces in 2008, followed by Saskatchewan at 4.1% and Manitoba at 4.2%. The national unemployment rate was 6.1%. (Figure 5)

Alberta's 2008 unemployment rate rose slightly from 3.5% recorded in the previous year. Male and female unemployment rates in Alberta were 3.5% and 3.7% respectively, the lowest in Canada.

The unemployment rate for Albertans 45 to 64 years of age, at 2.5%, was the lowest among this age cohort in Canada in 2008. Younger people, between 15 and 24, had an unemployment rate of 7.5%, the lowest among their Canadian counterparts.

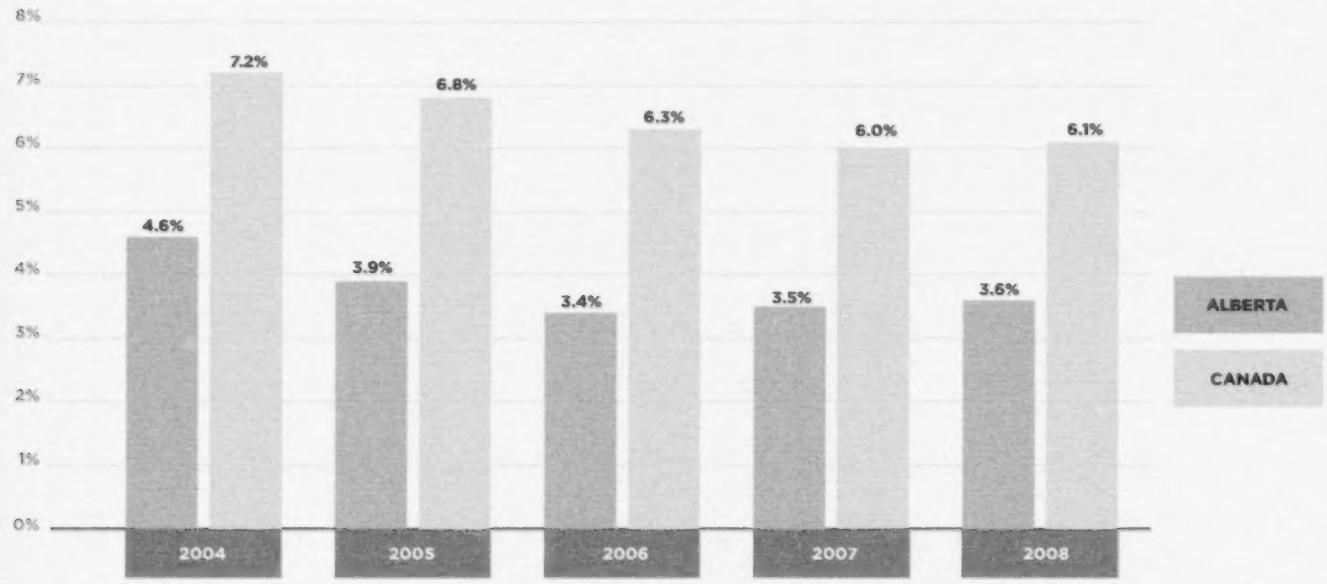
PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, 2008 — FIGURE 5

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



ALBERTA AND CANADA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, 2004–2008 — FIGURE 6

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



ECONOMIC REGIONS

Employment grew in all but two economic regions

The Edmonton economic region led employment growth in 2008 with an additional 23,100 jobs. The Calgary economic region added 21,700, the second highest increase among economic regions.

Employment increased in all economic regions except the Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River economic regions where employment declined by 700 and 200 respectively in 2008.

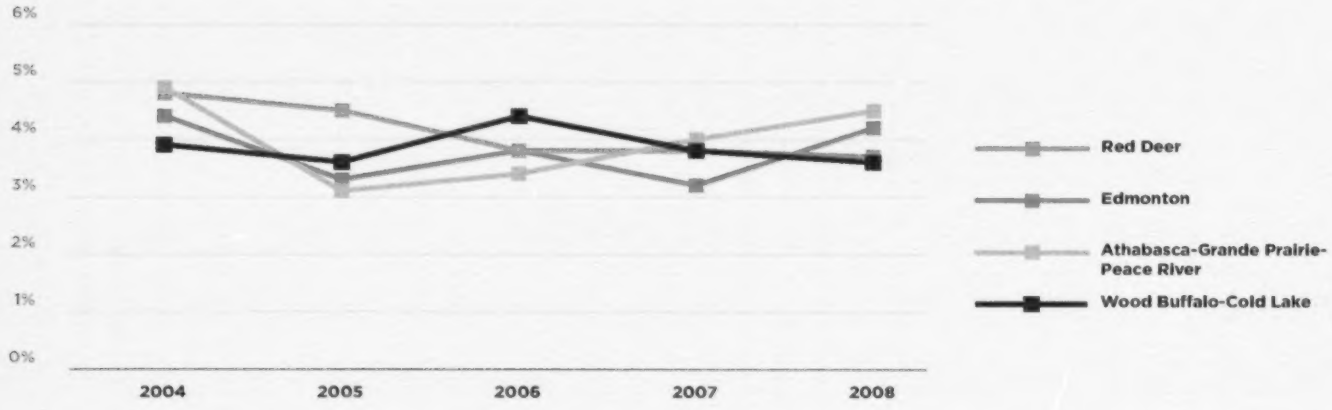
Unemployment rates declined in Camrose-Drumheller from 3.3% to 2.7%; Lethbridge-Medicine Hat from 4.0% to 3.3%; Edmonton from 3.8% to 3.7%; and Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake from 3.8% to 3.4%.

The Camrose-Drumheller and Lethbridge-Medicine Hat economic regions had the lowest unemployment rates in 2008, at 2.7% and 3.3% respectively.

ECONOMIC REGIONS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BETWEEN 2004–2008

FIGURE 7

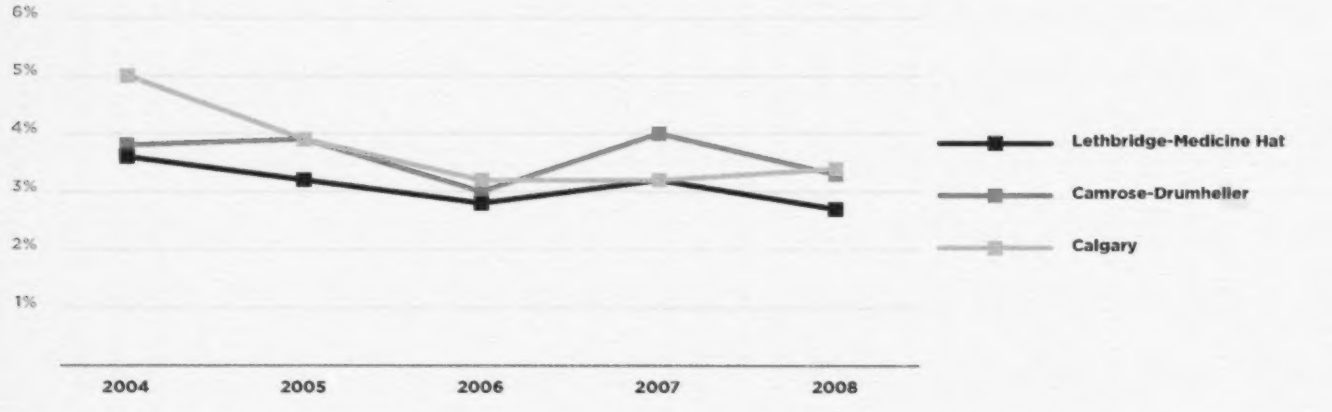
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



ECONOMIC REGIONS IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BETWEEN 2004–2008*

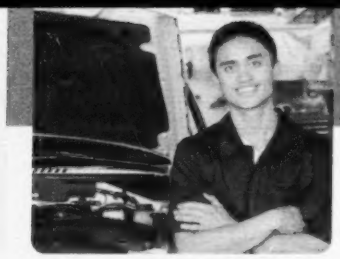
FIGURE 8

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



*In 2005, 2006, 2007, the Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House economic region's unemployment rates were not released due to insufficient data.

MIGRATION



Alberta continued to receive an increasing number of landed immigrants

Migration into Alberta resulted in a net gain of 26,509 people in 2007[5], lower than the 62,746 people in 2006 due largely to higher interprovincial out-migration.

In 2007, interprovincial in-migration to Alberta was lower than in 2006 while interprovincial out-migration from the province rose. The net interprovincial migration into Alberta was 9,921 in 2007, lower than the 46,239 in 2006. (Figure 9)

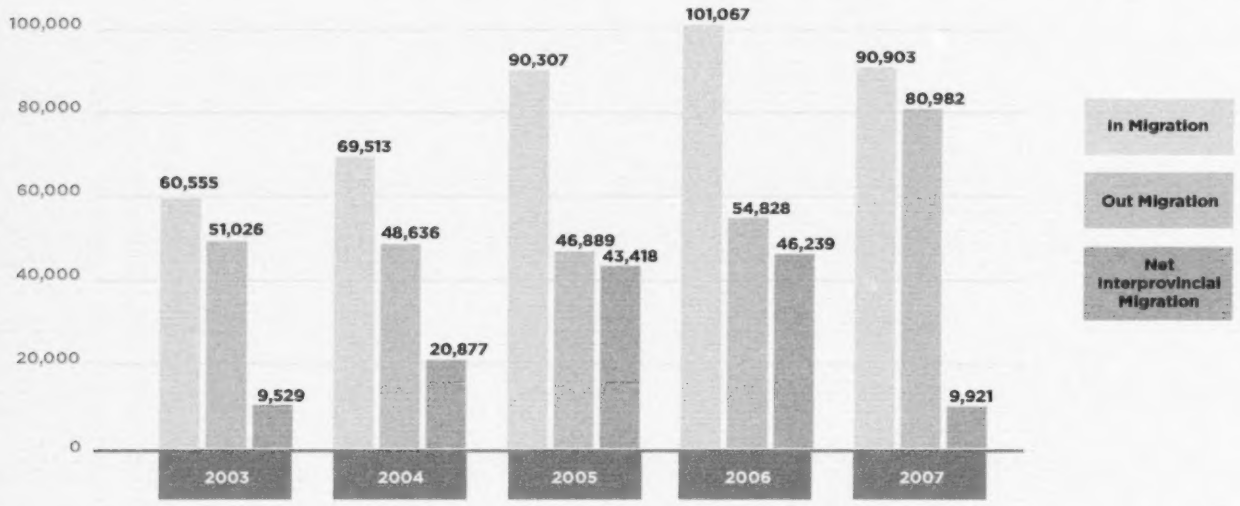
20,857 people immigrated to Alberta in 2007, a slight increase from 20,716 in 2006. (Figure 10)

The Alberta labour market in 2007 remained tight even as the number of temporary workers[4] increased by 10,874 from the previous year. Nevertheless, the number of temporary workers represented less than 2% of all people employed in 2007 in Alberta.

ALBERTA INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION, 2003–2007

FIGURE 9

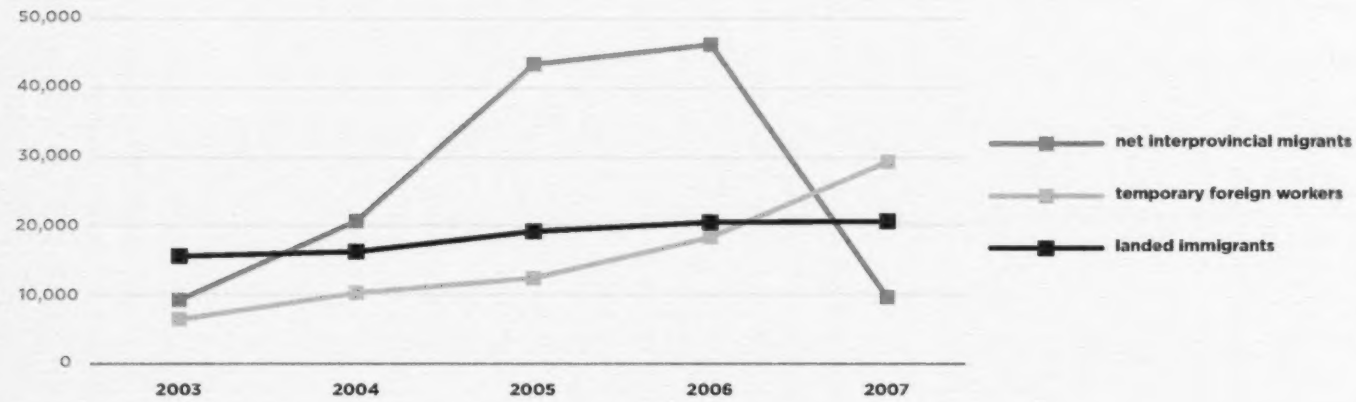
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



ALBERTA LANDED IMMIGRANTS, NET INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS, AND TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS[4], 2003–2007

FIGURE 10

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



[5]*The 2008 annual statistics were not available when this publication went to press.*
[4]*The total number of temporary foreign workers is the sum of initial entries to Alberta during the year.*

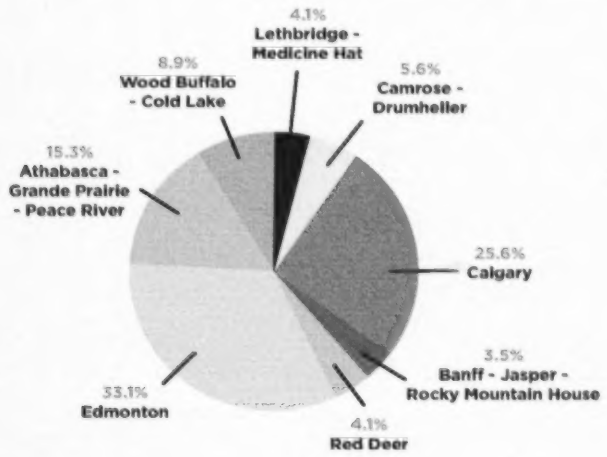
ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Employment for Aboriginal people living off-reserve remained high

Employment for Aboriginal people living off-reserve rose to 66,500 in 2008, an increase of 600 people from 2007. One-third of employed Aboriginal people living off-reserve worked in the Edmonton economic region. (Figure 11)

ALBERTA ABORIGINAL PEOPLE LIVING OFF-RESERVE, EMPLOYMENT BY ECONOMIC REGION, 2008 — FIGURE 11

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



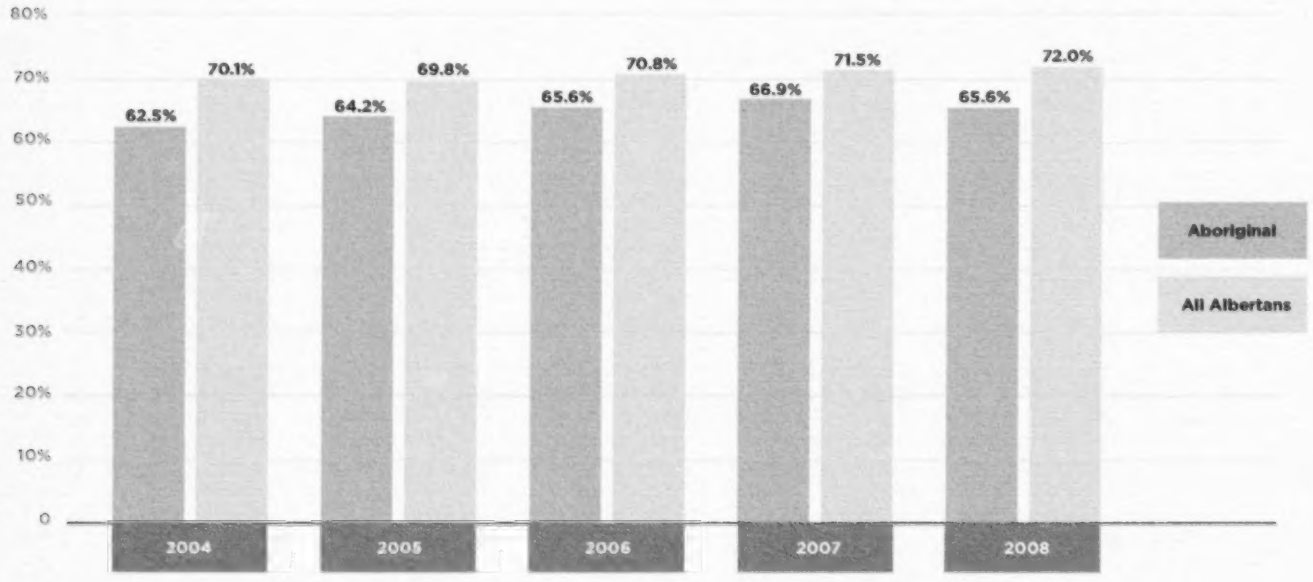
The Camrose-Drumheller economic region experienced the largest percentage increase in employment for Aboriginal people living off-reserve in 2008 with an increase of 54.2% or an addition of 1,300 people. Employment of off-reserve Aboriginal people in the Calgary economic region increased by 1,600.

Almost half of Alberta's employed Aboriginal people worked in four industries: Trade, Construction, Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction, and Health Care and Social Assistance. High employment growth, in excess of 20%, occurred in four other industries for Aboriginal people living off-reserve in 2008: Information Culture and Recreation, up 105.5%; Educational Services, up 31.87%; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, up 27.8%; and Management of Companies and Administrative and Other Support Services, up 23.3%.

The 2008 unemployment rate for off-reserve Aboriginal people was 8.3%.

ALBERTA ABORIGINAL PEOPLE LIVING OFF-RESERVE EMPLOYMENT RATES, 2004–2008 — FIGURE 12

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



INDUSTRIES

Employment growth was greater in Services-Producing Industries than in Goods-Producing Industries

The number of Services-Producing Industries jobs increased by 33,800 compared to 20,100 more jobs in the Goods-Producing Industries.

The five industries that reported more than 10,000 additional jobs in 2008 were Retail Trade, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing, Construction and Agriculture. (Figure 13)

The largest decline in employment occurred in the Business, Building and Other Support Services, which lost 10,000 jobs in 2008.

Three out of the 18 industries had an unemployment rate below 2.0% in 2008: Health Care and Social Assistance and Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing both had 1.4%; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services had 1.5%.

ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS BY INDUSTRY, 2008 — FIGURE 13

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey * Data suppression

INDUSTRY GROUP	2008 EMPLOYMENT	CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Retail Trade	229,700	18,000	3.7%
Construction	205,300	12,200	4.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	190,200	700	1.4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	164,200	17,900	1.5%
Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction	145,500	(1,400)	3.1%
Manufacturing	144,100	1,200	2.4%
Educational Services	126,800	(3,200)	2.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	113,900	(2,900)	5.7%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	111,700	13,300	1.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	102,200	(3,500)	2.1%
Other Services	91,200	(3,700)	2.3%
Wholesale Trade	87,300	8,400	2.9%
Public Administration	83,400	3,300	*
Information, Culture, and Recreation	71,600	(4,600)	3.8%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	63,900	(10,000)	4.1%
Agriculture	61,000	10,600	*
Utilities	17,500	(2,100)	*
Forestry and Logging	3,600	(500)	*

OCCUPATIONS

Sales and service occupations experienced largest employment growth

The three occupations with the highest employment numbers in 2008 were Sales and service with 456,400 employed; Trades, transportation and equipment operator and related with 379,600 employed; and Business, finance and administrative with 372,700 employed. (Figure 14)

Between 2007 and 2008, employment in three occupations increased by more than 10,000 jobs. Business, finance and administrative added 22,800, Sales and service added 14,500, and Trades, transportation and equipment operators and related added 13,200.

Four out of 10 occupations had an unemployment rate less than 3% which is indicative of a skill shortage. The unemployment rates for the four occupations were Management at 1.2%, Natural and applied sciences and related at 1.5%, Social sciences, education, government and religion at 1.7%, and Business, finance and administrative at 2.1%.

ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS BY OCCUPATION, 2008 — FIGURE 14

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey * Data suppression

OCCUPATIONS	2008 EMPLOYMENT	CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Sales and service	456,400	14,500	4.1%
Trades, transportation and equipment operator and related	379,600	13,200	3.7%
Business, finance and administrative	372,700	22,800	2.1%
Management	165,400	7,100	1.2%
Natural and applied sciences and related	153,600	(1,500)	1.5%
Social sciences, education, government and religion	149,500	4,400	1.7%
Unique to primary industry	121,500	6,200	3.5%
Health	103,300	(2,000)	*
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	65,600	(5,400)	3.8%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	45,800	(5,300)	*

EDUCATION

More than half of Alberta's labour force attained a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree

Alberta's workforce is attaining higher levels of post-secondary education. In 2008, 54.7% of the labour force held a post-secondary certificate or diploma, university bachelor degree or university graduate degree, up from 50.9% in 2004. Figure 15 shows the proportion of the Alberta labour force at different levels of educational attainment.

Over the past five years, the percentage of high school graduates in the labour force remained stable within a narrow range of 22.7% and 23.6%. In 2008, 22.9% of Alberta's labour force held a high school diploma. The proportion of the labour force without a high school diploma dropped from 15.8% in 2004 to 14.1% in 2008.

The proportion of the labour force with university bachelor and graduate degrees increased from 17.7% in 2004 to 21.7% in 2008.

ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT TRENDS, 2004–2008 FIGURE 15

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

EDUCATION LEVEL	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
0 to 8 Years	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%
Some Secondary	13.7%	12.3%	13.2%	12.2%	12.4%
High School Diploma	22.9%	23.2%	23.6%	22.7%	22.9%
Some Post-Secondary	10.4%	9.1%	8.4%	9.5%	8.5%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	33.2%	33.0%	32.1%	33.6%	33.0%
University: Bachelor's Degree	12.8%	14.9%	15.0%	14.6%	15.6%
University: Graduate Degree	4.9%	5.4%	5.8%	5.7%	6.1%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Employment rose for Albertans across all age groups

Just over 80% of Albertans employed in 2008 were between the age of 25 and 64 years. Of this, 43.9% were between 45 and 64 years of age.

Employment for those 65 years of age and older increased by 19.9% in 2008 from the previous year, the highest per cent increase in employment of all age groups. In 2005, 11.3% of the people in this age group were employed compared to 15.9% in 2008.

The age group with the highest increase in employment in 2008 was the 45 to 64 age group, with an increase of 28,900.

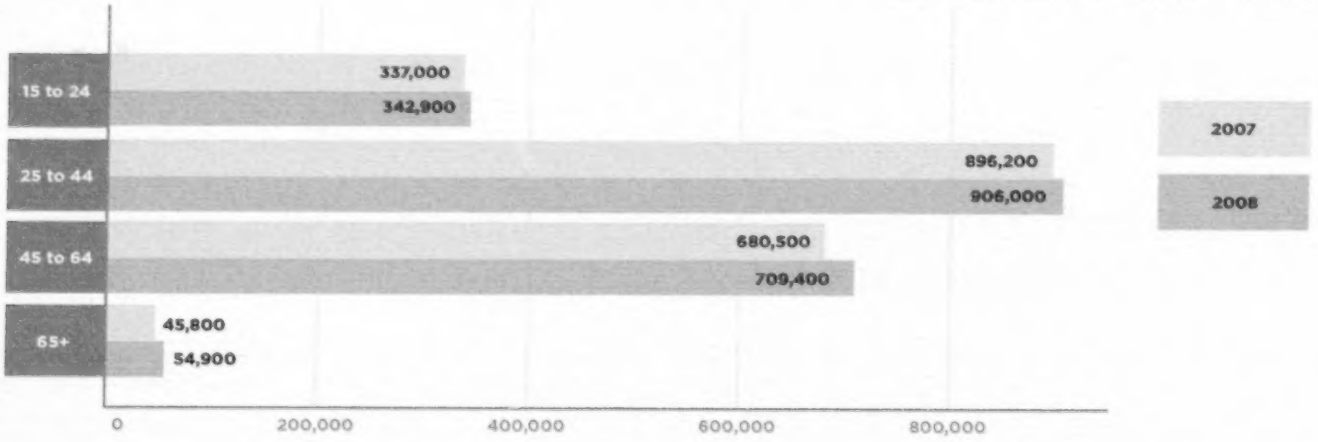
In the 25 to 44 age group, 85.1% were employed, the highest employment rate of the four age groups. (Figure 17)

In 2008, 15,500 Albertans retired, 520 more than the previous year.

ALBERTA EMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUPS, 2007–2008

FIGURE 16

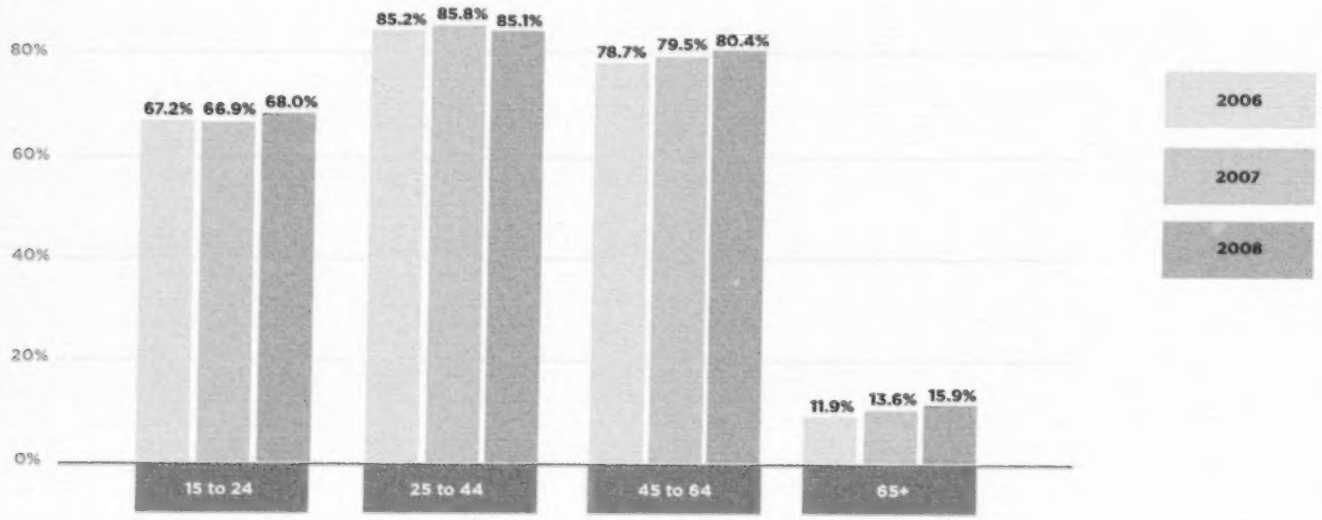
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



ALBERTA EMPLOYMENT RATES BY AGE GROUPS, 2006–2008

FIGURE 17

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey



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